

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-02 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 /061 W

----- 079223

O R 211128Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2386

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23553

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TH, PINT

SUBJ: OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE OVER PRAPHAT'S RETURN

STUDENT PROTESTS OVER RETURN TO THAILAND OF FIELD  
MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN ERUPTED INTO SCATTERED VIOLENCE  
AFTERNOON OF AUG 21, WITH RADIO STATION REPORTING THREE  
DEAD AND 38 INJURED AS OF 1700 LOCAL TIME. POLICE UNABLE  
TO CONFIRM CASUALTY FIGURES. VIOLENCE BEGAN IN EARLY AFTER-  
NOON AUG 21 WHEN GROUP OF RIGHT-WING VOCATIONAL STUDENTS,  
REPORTEDLY LED BY RIGHT-WING "RED GUAR" AND ESTIMATED BY  
POLICE AT ABOUT 1000, BLOCKED ENTRANCES TO THAMMASAT UNI-  
VERSITY, WHERE ANTI-PARAPHAT MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD LAST  
FEW DAYS. AT LEAST TWO EXPLOSIONS AND SOME SMALL ARMS FIRE  
REPORTED. AS OF 1700 SITUATION WAS QUIET, BUT POTENTIAL  
FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE IS CONSIDERABLE.

AT 1600 LOCAL TIME GOVERNMENT ISSUED FURTHER IN SERIES  
OF COMMUNIQUE ON PRAPHAT AFFAIR (TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED BY  
FBIS). COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT DIRECTOR OF MILITARY GENERAL  
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HOSPITAL HAS CERTIFIED THAT PRAPHAT IS ILL (SUFFERING FROM

CATARACTS, ENLARGED HEART, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE). GOVERNMENT HAS ACCORDINGLY REAFFIRMED PREVIOUS AGREEMENT TO PRAHPAT' REMAINING IN BANGKOK FOR SEVEN DAY (WHICH MEANS DEPARTURE BY AUG 27).

STATEMENT SAYS THAT GOVERNMENT POSITION IS SUPPORTED BY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THAI ARMED FORCES AND BY SERVICE CHIEFS AND THAT MILITARY HAVE AGREED TO OBEY ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PRESENT CONTEXT. STATEMENT CONCLUDES BY CALLING ON PEOPLE TO REMAIN CALM IN PRESENT SITUATION. EVIDENTLY INTENDING TO MISS NO BETS, PRIME MINISTER SENI HAS ORDERED RADIO STATIONS NOT RPT NOT TO CARRY INFLAMMATORY INFORMATION THAT COULD LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF SITUATION. ARMORED DIVISION RADIO, WHICH HAS CARRIED STREAM OF MATERIAL CRITICAL OF THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY (WHERE ANTI-PRAPHAT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE CENTERED), ANNOUNCED AT 1700 LOCAL TIME THAT IT HAD RECEIVED ORDERS TO RELAY NEWS ONLY FROM OFFICIAL RADIO THAILAND.

COMMENT: GOVERNMENT REITERATION OF AGREEMENT TO ALLOW PRAPHAT TO STAY ON FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS ENSURES THAT PRESENT CONTROVERSY WILL CONTINUE. LIMITED VIOLENCE THAT OCCURRED AFTERNOON OF AUG 21 UNDERLINES POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS TROUBLE IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO23553  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED, APPROVED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <07 Mar 2006 by morefirh>; APPROVED <07 Mar 2006 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE OVER PRAPHAT'S RETURN STUDENT PROTESTS OVER RETURN TO THAILAND OF FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN ERUPTED INTO SCATTERED  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, (PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006